



# NOTES FROM THE RANGE

November/December 2014



**Tune in for the 2015 State of the State address to the Kansas Legislature**

**6:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 15, 2015.**

**The 133rd State of the State address will be televised live by KPTS-TV and other Kansas television and radio stations.**

## Sharing the spirit of Christmas

Christmas is a special time of year, one when families and friends come together to celebrate the joy of the season.

It should be a time of peace, friendship and reconciliation. It is a time for us to think not just of ourselves. The spirit of Christmas is meant to be shared fully with others, through our thoughts and deeds.

American writer Washington Irving said "Christmas is a season for kindling the fire for hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart."

At this time of the year in particular, as we gather with our friends and families, I encourage everyone to kindle that flame of charity by reaching out to those in need. Even the smallest act of kindness can make a difference in someone's life. If you can, support the many charitable organizations which help those less fortunate either with a donation or the gift of your time.

I also ask you remember those who are without their families as they serve the United States in far-off places.

They serve so that we may enjoy the holidays free from danger and fear.

Please have a happy and safe holiday season, filled with joy and contentment.

Lt. Governor Jeff Colyer and I, along with our families, wish you a Merry Christmas.

God Bless you.

*Sam Brownback*



**Mary and I enjoyed volunteering as bell ringers for the Salvation Army earlier this month.**

## Pictures From the Road



**A visit with St. Nick** — Mary and I posed with a special guest at Cedar Crest. Santa was there for the arrival of the official Kansas Christmas tree, a 9-foot Scotch Pine from Country Christmas Trees. A second tree, provided by Cardinal Creek Farm is at the State Capitol. Once again, we thank the Kansas Tree Growers Association and everyone who helps make this season special.

## Recent Kansas accomplishments and rankings

*Things you may not know about our great state*

**As this year comes to a close, let's take a moment to review some achievements:**

- 14,400 private sector jobs created between January and October 2014 (latest available data)
- More than 1.4 million Kansans working; that's a new record.
- In the last full calendar year, job growth by new and expanding businesses in Kansas was second in the nation.
- We have seen 15 consecutive months of real wage growth for Kansans.

**And others are noticing what Kansas is doing. Look at these recent accolades:**

- 5th overall in the nation for best schools
- 8th overall in the nation for school system quality
- Small businesses in Kansas are the most optimistic in the nation in terms of hiring prospects for the next 12 months